

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

HA-05 L-03 /052 W

-----074139 011911Z /66 L

R 312150Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 668

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1435

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CASC, CS, ES

SUBJECT: RICHARDSON CASE

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 1419, (B) SAN JOSE 1403

1. AT HIS REQUEST, HERNANDEZ VISITED POLOFF MARCH 31 TO OFFER
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HIS THREE-DAY STAY IN PANAMANIAN JAIL,

MARCH 21-23, HERNANDEZ SAYS THAT AFTER BEING PICKED UP, HE WAS
TAKEN TO GUARD HEADQUARTERS WHERE AN INTERROGATION BY A
MAJOR HERRERA AND A MAJOR GALVEZ WAS CONDUCTED. HE CLAIMS
THAT FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES GENERAL TORRIJOS WAS PRESENT. HE
SAYS THAT TORRIJOS SPOKE OF RICHARDSON CASE, ACCUSED
HERNANDEZ OF CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR MOLINA GOVERNMENT, AND
TOLD HIM THAT GOES HAD INFORMED GOP ALL ABOUT HERNANDEZ
AND HIS CONTACT WITH US OFFICIALS IN MEXICO, GUATEMALA,
AND COSTA RICA.

2. POLOFF QUERIED HERNANDEZ ON SOME OF QUESTIONABLE
PORTIONS OF HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS AS OUTLINED REFTEL (A).
HERNANDEZ STUCK TO THE "MONTH AND A HALF" TORTURE PERIOD
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PRIOR TO RICHARDSON'S DEATH. HE ALSO REPEATED THAT THE
INCARCERATION OCCURRED AT MID-YEAR, AND GAVE DATES OF
FIRST WEEK OF JULY TO MID-AUGUST. RE PARTICIPATION OF
INDIVIDUALS IN THE TORTURE AND DEATH OF RICHARDSON, HE
MENTIONED SAME NAMES AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY. RE RESPON-
SIBILITY FOR RICHARDSON'S DEATH AS RESULT OF TORTURE,
HERNANDEZ STATED THAT "COL. AVARENGA" OF THE GN GAVE THE

ORDERS.

3. HERNANDEZ IS LOOKING FOR WORK AS A SHIP'S MATE
THROUGH LOCAL HIRING AGENCIES. CONSULATE IS PLANNING
TO GIVE HIM NAMES OF SUCH AGENCIES ON APRIL 3.

4. EMBASSY SALVADOR MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SENDING SOMEONE
KNOWLEDGEABLE IN RICHARDSON CASE TO INTERROGATE HERNANDEZ
FURTHER SHOULD ADDITIONAL FOLLOW-UP BE CONSIDERED USEFUL. EMBSSY
PLANS INITIATE NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH HERNANDEZ, UNLESS OTHER-
WISE INSTRUCTED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, INVESTIGATIONS, INFORMANTS, ARRESTS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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